

Interstate Commerce Commission issued new regulations mandating an end to segregation in bus and train stations. Their success inspired more people to participate in Freedom Rides elsewhere around the South during 1961. These Rides eventually led the movement to its landmark victories—the Civil Rights Act in 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. They continue to inspire a new generation of activists, such as the students of the New York State Youth Leadership Council, who invoked the memory of the Freedom Riders as they marched from places like Washington Heights in my hometown of New York City all the way to our nation's capital to demonstrate their support for the DREAM ACT.

Fifty years ago, Freedom Riders envisioned a country where everyone was given the equal opportunity to pursue their dreams. Thanks to their efforts, anyone in America can make his or her dream a reality by working hard with a can-do spirit. Today we honor the Freedom Riders by remembering their struggles and resolve, and by renewing our commitment to uphold their vision of promoting equal opportunity for all.

RECOGNIZING THE PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE HONORABLE MADRITH CHAMBERS FORMER CITY OF BECKLEY COMMON COUNCILWOMAN

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, being honored this Sunday, by her hometown church, the Heart of God Ministries in Beckley, West Virginia, Madrith Chambers remains a woman of distinguished character, who early on dedicated her life to the betterment of her community. She knew that to make such service her destiny, she needed proper tools.

She enrolled in school and became a successful model. Then she became an assistant buyer for a major department store. Mrs. Chambers developed the poetry of style, which she still exudes to this very day.

In Washington, D.C., she served our troops and their families from Bolling Air Force Base to Walter Reed Army Medical Center to become an Air Force liaison to military families.

She came home to West Virginia, and did work as a legal secretary and cared for her growing family. She also took a job as a taxi cab driver.

An active citizen, Mrs. Chambers was appointed to the Beckley Human Rights Commission, where she served as Chairwoman for 9 years.

While working for the Social Security Administration, and knowing the value of a good education, Mrs. Chambers again pursued her educational goals while attending night classes at Bluefield State College. She obtained her long desired Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice Administration and Law Enforcement in 1985.

Upon Mrs. Chamber's retirement after 25 years at the Social Security Administration, she was elected in 1991, to the City of Beckley's Common Council, where she served for 12 years.

During Councilwoman Chambers' tenure on the Common Council, she was instrumental in

accomplishing major improvements for Ward 5, and in the Beckley Community. In her first two years as Councilwoman, she was instrumental in getting the City of Beckley to annex the Red Brush community of East Beckley, providing families with fire and police protection, water and sewage, and door to door mail delivery, by getting the City of Beckley to pave the "red dog" dirt roads, throughout the Red Brush community of East Beckley. This project is one that she is most proud of accomplishing.

She possesses "no fear" in her determination to overcome obstacles to make life better for others. Councilwoman Chambers was also the first African-American City Council member in West Virginia to request and receive funding for projects through the Budget Digest of the West Virginia Legislature and was recognized for her efforts by former West Virginia House of Delegates Speaker, Bob Kiss.

Being a mother, and seeing the need for children to have fun and educational activities during the summer months, she was first to organize the now annual "Kid's Classic" in the City of Beckley. The "Kid's Classic" is a weeklong celebration that allows all children who live throughout Beckley and Raleigh County, an opportunity to come together during the summer, in a safe environment for educational and fun activities in downtown Beckley.

Throughout Councilwoman Chambers' public service career she has been a driving force in the Beckley community. She was instrumental in the recruitment and training of minorities to serve as Beckley City police officers and increased the total number of African-Americans serving as police officers from two to seven officers during her tenure on the Common Council, a major accomplishment. Councilwoman Chambers brought Community Policing to the East Park, East Beckley, and the Maxwell Hill communities with satellite police stations.

Councilwoman Chambers, under the "Undoing Racism Project," facilitated training in the City of Beckley for various city personnel to develop sensitivity awareness in promoting fair housing and lending for minorities, health care, jobs and criminal justice. When entering the City of Beckley from the 1-77/64 interchange at Harper Road, travelers will be greeted with the words on an erected sign which states, "We Respect Diversity." The sign was posted by the City of Beckley at the request of Councilwoman Chambers.

While serving as Mayor Emmett Pugh's representative on the Mountain State Centers for Independent Living, she advised the Mayor on how to help bring the City of Beckley into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, in meeting the mobility needs for individuals with disabilities. A short time after her tenure as Councilwoman, she secured donated land for the City of Beckley for the establishment of the Family Dollar Store, a national chain store built on the site of the former Pack's Supermarket in East Beckley. The opening of the Family Dollar Store in East Beckley provided employment opportunities for many of East Beckley's residents and is a source of great pride in the community.

Councilwoman Chambers' accomplishments are many. She has served as 1st Vice President of the Beckley-Raleigh County NAACP and was the first to run an African-American Girl Scout Troop in Beckley, under the Black Diamond Girl Scouts of West Virginia.

There were many firsts for Mrs. Chambers, she was the first African-American woman to become President of the Beckley Business and Professional Women's Club, the first African-American President of the Board of Directors for the Raleigh County Hospice Association, first African-American member of the Beckley Kiwanis Club, first African-American Woman inducted into the Women of the Moose in Beckley and continues to be active in that organization.

Councilwoman Chambers has been recognized for her many civic achievements in life. She was recognized by former West Virginia Governor Bob Wise for her leadership in the City of Beckley. Councilwoman Chambers received the "Seat for Social Justice" award from the Citizens Conservation Corps of West Virginia. The "Seat for Justice Award," a uniquely designed artwork depicting a bus seat, is now on permanent display at the Beckley-Raleigh County Public Library.

Councilwoman Chambers is among two living employees who worked at the old Conley High School in Mullens, West Virginia, and was recognized for her professional achievements by the West Virginia Black Hall of Fame in 2010.

Councilwoman Chambers, a woman of deep abiding faith in God is a member of the Heart of God Ministries in Beckley, West Virginia. She is an accomplished pianist and over the years has served as pianist for several churches. Being the mother of three girls and two boys, she has a passion for life and endeavors to bring all brethren together for the good of the community.

In the old gospel hymn that she loves dearly, "Let My Works Speak for Me," Councilwoman Chambers desires that her life be a living testimony of what God has allowed her to do and achieve in her public service throughout Beckley and the State of West Virginia. Her favorite scripture is from Psalm 133:1 "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." With God, all things are possible is her motto.

I hope all West Virginians will join me in recognizing the Honorable Madrith Chambers.

HONORING DOMINIC J. CIARAMITARO

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Dominic J. Ciaramitaro, a courageous Marine and noble soldier, who died on April 23, 2011 at the age of 19. Lance Corporal Ciaramitaro laid down his life while bravely conducting combat operations in the Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

Lance Corporal Ciaramitaro was an antitank missileman assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force based in Camp Lejeune, N.C. He was a 2009 graduate of South Lyon High School who as a member of the football team. Lance Corporal Ciaramitaro enlisted in the Marines the day after his high school graduation and began his career as a Marine in November 2009. Lance Corporal Ciaramitaro deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in December 2010 and